

WHY

Nor can that person who accounts it his recreation to see one man wallowing in his filthy revels, and another infamous by his sensuality, be so impudent as to allege, that all the enormous draughts of the one can leave the least relish upon the tip of his tongue; or that all the fornications and whoredoms of the other can quench his own lust. *South's Sermons.*

WHOREMASTER. *n. f.* [*whore* and *master* or *monger*.] One who keeps whores, or converses with a fornicator.

What is a *whoremaster*, fool? a fool in good cloaths and something like thee. *Shakespeare.*

As if we were drunkards, by a planetary influence; an admirable evasion of *whoremaster* man, to lay his goatish disposition on the change of a star. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*

Art thou fully persuaded that no *whoremonger* nor adulterer shall have any inheritance in the kingdom of God? and dost thou continue to practise these vices? *Tillotson's Sermons.*

A rank notorious *whoremonger*, to choose. *Dryden.*

If he were jealous, he might clip his wife's wings; but what would this avail, when there were flocks of *whoremasters* perpetually hovering over his house. *Addison's Guardian.*

WHO'RESON. *n. f.* [*whore* and *son*.] A bastard. It is generally used in a ludicrous disguise. *Shakespeare.*

Whoreson, mad compound of majesty, thou art welcome. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*

Thou *whore'son* Zed! thou unnecessary letter. *Shakespeare.*

How now, you *whoreson* peasant, Where have you been these two days loitering? *Shakespeare.*

Frog was a cunning, fly *whoreson*, quite the reverse of John. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*

WHO'RISH. *adj.* [from *whore*.] Unchaste; incontinent.

You, like a lecher, out of *whorish* loins Breed out your inheritors. *Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida.*

By means of a *whorish* woman a man is brought to a piece of bread. *Prov. vi. 26.*

WHO'RTLEBERRY. *n. f.* [*whortleberry*, Saxon.] Bilberry. A plant.

The flower consists of one leaf, shaped like a pitcher; from whose empalement arises the pointal, fixed like a nail in the upper part of the flower, which becomes a soft umbilicated fruit or berry full of juice, in which are inclosed seeds, for the most part small. *Miller.*

WHOSE. *n. f.*

1. Genitive of *who*.

Though I could With barefac'd power sweep him from my sight, And bid my will avouch it, yet I must not; For certain friends that are both his and mine, *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

2. Genitive of *whose*.

Thy name affrights me, in *whose* sound is death. *Shakespeare.*

Those darts *whose* points make gods adore His might, and deprecate his power. *Prior.*

WHO'SO. *pronoun.* [*who* and *sever*.] Any, without restriction.

WHOSEVER. *pronoun.* [*who* and *sever*.] Any, without restriction.

Who'so is out of hope to attain to another's virtue, will seek to come at even hand, by depressing another's fortune. *Bacon.*

Let there be persons licensed to lend upon usury; let the rate be somewhat more easy for the merchant than that he formerly paid; for all borrowers shall have some ease, be he merchant or *whosoever*. *Bacon.*

He inclos'd Knowledge of good, and evil, in this tree, That *who'so* eats thereof, forthwith attains Wisdom. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

Who'soever hath Christ for his friend, shall be sure of counsel, and *who'soever* is his own friend will be sure to obey it. *South's Sermons.*

WHURT. *n. f.* A whortleberry; a bilberry.

For fruits, both wild, as *whurts*, strawberries, pears and plums, though the meaner sort come short, the gentlemen step not far behind those of other parts. *Carew.*

WHY. *adv.* [*hwi*, *hwi*, Saxon.]

1. For what reason? Interrogatively.

They both deal justly with you; *why*? not from any regard they have for justice, but because their fortune depends on their credit. *Swift.*

2. For which reason. Relatively.

Mortar will not have attained its utmost compactness till fourscore years after it has been employed; and this is one reason *why*, in demolishing ancient fabrics, it is more easy to break the stone than the mortar. *Boyle.*

No ground of enmity *Why* he should mean me ill. *Milton.*

Such, whose sole bliss is eating; who can give But that one brutal reason, *why* they live. *Dryden.*

3. For what reason. Relatively.

—Ay, sir, and wherefore; for they say, Every *why* hath a wherefore. *Shakespeare.*

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I was dispatch'd for their defence and guard; And listen *why*, for I will tell you now. *Milton.*

We examine the *why*, the what and the how of things. *L'Estrange.*

Turn the discourse; I have a reason *why* I would not have you speak so tenderly. *Dryden.*

4. It is sometimes used emphatically.

Ninus' tomb, man; *why*, you must not speak that yet; that you answer to Pyram. *Shakespeare.*

You have not been a-bed then? *Why*, no; the day had broke before we parted. *Shakespeare.*

Whence is this? *why*: from that essential suitability which obedience has to the relation which is between a rational creature and his Creator. *South's Sermons.*

WHYNOT. *adv.* A cant word for violent or peremptory procedure.

Capoch'd your rabbins of the synod, And snap'd their canons with a *whynot*. *Hudibras.*

W. [*Sax.*] Holy. Thus *winund*, holy peace; *willert*, eminent for sanctity; *alwi*, altogether holy, as Hierocles, Hieronymus, Hosius, &c. *Gibson's Camden.*

WIC, *Wich*. Comes from the Saxon *wic*, which according to the different nature and condition of places, hath a threefold signification; implying either a village, or a bay made by the winding banks of a river, or a cattle. *Gibson's Camden.*

WICK. *n. f.* [*wece*, Saxon; *wicke*, Dutch.] The substance round which is applied the wax or tallow of a torch or candle.

But true it is, that when the oil is spent, The light goes out, and *wick* is thrown away; So, when he had resign'd his regiment, His daughter 'gan despise his drooping day. *Fa. Queen.*

There lives within the very flame of love A kind of *wick* or snuff that will abate it. *Shakespeare.*

Bodies are inflamed wholly and immediately, without any *wick* to help the inflammation. *Bacon's Natural History.*

Little atoms of oil or melted wax continually ascend apace up the *wick* of a burning candle. *Dieby.*

The fungus parcels about the *wicks* of candles only signify a moist and pulvis air about them. *Brown's Vulgar Err.*

WICKED. *adj.* [Of this common word the etymology is very obscure; *picca*, is an enchanter; *paccan*, is to oppress; *pyan*, is to curse; *picco*, is crooked: all these however *Stimmer* rejects for *vitiatu*, Latin. Perhaps it is a compound of *pic*, vile, bad, and *head*, *malum caput*.]

1. Given to vice; not good; flagitious; morally bad.

The dwelling place of the *wicked* shall come to nought. *Job.*

And as the better spirit, when she doth bear A scorn of death, doth shew she cannot die; So when the *wicked* foul death's face doth fear, Ev'n then she proves her own eternity. *Davies.*

He of their *wicked* ways shall them admonish. *Milton.*

But since thy veins paternal virtue fires, Go and succeed! the rivals aims despise; For never, never *wicked* man was wife. *Pope's Odyssey.*

2. It is a word of ludicrous or slight blame.

That same *wicked* bastard of Venus, that blind rascally boy, that abuses every one's eyes because his own are out, let him be judge how deep I am in love. *Shakespeare.*

3. Curled; baneful; pernicious; bad in effect.

The *wicked* weed which there the fox did lay, From underneath his head he took away. *Hubbard.*

As *wicked* dew as e'er my mother brush'd, With raven's feather from unwholesome fen, Drop on you both. *Shakespeare's Temp.*

WICKEDLY. *adv.* [from *wicked*.] Criminally; corruptly; badly.

I would now send him where they all should see, Clear as the light his heart shines; where no man Could be so *wickedly* or fondly stupid, But should cry out, he saw, touch'd, felt *wickedness*, And grasp'd it. *Ben. Jonson.*

He behaved himself with great modesty and wonderful repentance; being convinced in his conscience that he had done *wickedly*. *Clarendon.*

That thou may'st the better bring about Thy wishes, thou art *wickedly* devout. *Dryden.*

'Tis phrase absurd to call a villain great: Who *wickedly* is wife, or madly brave, Is but the more a fool, the more a knave. *Pope.*

WICKEDNESS. *n. f.* [from *wicked*.] Corruption of manners; guilt; moral ill.

It is not good that children should know any *wickedness*; old folks have discretion and know the world. *Shakespeare.*

These tents thou saw'st so pleasant, were the tents Of *wickedness*; wherein shall dwell his race Who slew his brother. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

WICKER. *adj.* [*vigre*, a twig, Danish; *twiggen*, Dutch.] Made of small sticks.

Each one a little *wicker* basket had Made of fine twigs, entrail'd curiously; In which they gather'd flow'rs. *Spenser.*

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The long broad shields, made up of *wicker* rods, which are commonly used among the northern Irish, but especially among the Scots, are brought from the Scythians. *Spenser.*

If your influence be quite damm'd up With black usurping mists, some gentle taper, Though a rush candle from the *wicker* hole Of some clay habitation, visit us. *Milton.*

With thy long-levell'd rule of streaming light. *Peacbam.*

A foolish painter drew January sitting in a *wicker* chair, with four nightcaps on by the fire, and without doors green trees, as if it had been in the midst of July. *Peacbam.*

WICKET. *n. f.* [*wicked*, Welsh; *guigbet*, Fr. *wicket*, Dutch.] A small gate.

When none yielded, her unruly page, With his rude claws the *wicket* open rent, And let her in. *Fairy Queen.*

These *wickets* of the foul are plac'd on high, Because all sounds do lightly mount aloft. *Davies.*

Now St. Peter at heav'n's *wicket* seems To wait them with his keys. *Milton.*

The cave was now a common way, The *wicket*, often open'd, knew the key. *Dryden.*

The chattering with dissenters, and dodging about this or the other ceremony, is like opening a few *wickets*, by which no more than one can get in at a time. *Swift.*

WIDE. *adj.* [*ptoe*, Saxon; *wijd*, Dutch.]

1. Broad; extended far each way.

They found fat pasture, and the land was *wide* and quiet. *Chren. iv. 40.*

He wand'ring long a *wider* circle made, And many languag'd nations he survey'd. *Pope.*

2. Broad to a certain degree: as *three inches wide*.

3. Deviating; remote.

Many of the fathers were far *wide* from the understanding of this place. *Raleigh.*

Consider the absurdities of that distinction betwixt the act and the obliquity, and the contrary being so *wide* from the truth of scripture and the attributes of God, and so noxious to good life, we may certainly conclude, that to the perpetration of whatsoever sin, there is not at all any predestination of God. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*

To move His laughter at their quaint opinions *wide*. *Milton.*

Of *wide* of nature must he act a part, Make love in tropes, in bombast break his heart. *Tickell.*

WIDE. *adv.*

1. At a distance. In this sense *wide* seems to be sometimes an adverb.

A little *wide*, There was a holy chapel edify'd, Wherein the hermit used to say His holy things each morn and even tide. *Fairy Queen.*

Of this I have heard more from others who lived much among the Chinese; a people whose way of thinking seems to lie as *wide* of ours in Europe as their country does. *Temple.*

2. With great extent.

Of all these bounds rich'd With plenteous rivers, and *wide* skirted meads, We make thee lady. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*

On the east-side of the garden place, Cherubic watch; and of a sword the flame *Wide*-waving; all approach far off to fright. *Milton.*

With huge two-handed sway, Brandish'd aloft, the horrid edge came down, *Wide* wafting. *Milton.*

The fourth wind rose, and with black wings, *Wide* hovering all the clouds together drove From under heav'n. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

Stretch'd at ease the panting ladies lies, To shun the fervor of meridian skies; While sweating slaves catch ev'ry breeze of air, And with *wide*-spreading fans refresh the fair. *Gay.*

Yet *wide* was spread their fame in ages past, And poets once had promis'd they should last. *Pope.*

WIDELY. *adv.* [from *wide*.]

1. With great extent each way.

Any that considers how immense the intervals of the chaos are, in proportion to the bulk of the atoms, will hardly induce himself to believe, that particles so *widely* diffused could ever throng one another to a compact texture. *Bentley.*

2. Remotely; far.

Let him exercise the freedom of his reason, and his mind will be strengthened, and the light which the remote parts of truth will give to one another, will so assist his judgment, that he will seldom be *widely* out. *Locke.*

To WIDEN. *v. a.* [from *wide*.] To make wide; to extend.

So now the gates are ope; now prove good seconds; 'Tis for the followers, fortune *widens* them, Not for the flyers. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*

These accidents when they first happen, seem but small and contemptible; but by degrees they branch out and *widen* them-

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self into a numerous train of mischievous consequences. *South.*

He was accustomed to sleep with a peaceable nose, softening in his slumbers the wrinkles of it, and the anger which commonly mounted to that part; but now his nostrils were *widened* to the last degree of fury. *Dryden's Dufresnoy.*

To WIDEN. *v. n.* To grow wide; to extend itself.

It is in this that the species of brutes are discriminated from man, and that proper difference, wherein they are wholly separated, and which at last *widens* to so vast a distance. *Locke.*

With her the temple ev'ry moment grew, Upward the columns shoot, the roofs ascend, And arches *widen*, and long files extend. *Pope.*

WIDENESS. *n. f.* [from *wide*.]

1. Breadth; large extent each way.

The rugged hair began to fall away; The sweetness of her eyes did only stay, Though not so large; her crooked horns decrease; The *wideness* of her jaws and nostrils cease. *Dryden.*

2. Comparative breadth.

Within the same annual time, the center of the earth is carried above fifty times as far round the orbis magnus, whose *wideness* we now assume to be twenty thousand terrestrial diameters. *Bentley's Sermons.*

WIDGEON. A water-fowl not unlike a wild duck, but not so large.

Among the first sort we reckon crows, curlews, and *widgeon*. *Carew.*

WIDOW. *n. f.* [*widua*, Sax. *widuw*, Dutch; *widow*, Welsh; *vidua*, Latin.] A woman whose husband is dead.

To take the *widow*, Exasperates, makes mad her sister Gonerill. *Shakespeare.*

Catharine no more Shall be call'd queen; but princely dowager, And *widow* to prince Arthur. *Shakespeare's Hen. VIII.*

Our fatherless distress was left unmoan'd, Your *widow*-dolors likewise be unwept. *Shak. Richard III.*

And will the yet debate her eyes on me, That cropt the golden prime of this sweet prince, And made her *widow* to a woeful bed. *Shakespeare.*

The barren they more miserable make, And from the *widow* all her comfort take. *Saunders.*

He warns the *widow*, and her household gods To seek a refuge in remote abodes. *Dryden.*

Who has the paternal power whilst the *widow*-queen is with child. *Locke.*

To WIDOW. *v. a.* [from *widow*.]

1. To deprive of a husband.

In this city he Hath *widow'd* and unchilded many a one, Which to this hour bewail the injury. *Shak. Coriolanus.*

Poor ropes you are beguil'd; Both you and I; for Romeo is exil'd; He made you for a high way to my bed, But I, a maid, die maiden *widow'd*. *Shakespeare.*

Thy little care to mend my *widow'd* nights, Has forc'd me to recourse of marriage rites, To fill an empty side. *Dryden.*

2. To endow with a widow-right.

For his possessions, Although by confiscation they are ours, We do imitate and *widow* you withal, To buy you a better husband. *Shakespeare.*

3. To strip of any thing good.

The *widow'd* life in mourning Dries up her tears. *Dryden.*

For him you waste in tears your *widow'd* hours. *Dryden.*

Inclement weather and frosty blasts deface The blithsome year, trees of their thrive'd fruits Are *widow'd*, dreary storms o'er all prevail. *Philips.*

WIDOWER. *n. f.* [from *widow*.] One who has lost his wife.

The king, scaling up all thoughts of love under the image of her memory, remained a *widower* many years after. *Sidney.*

The main contents are had, and here we'll stay To see our *widower's* second marriage-day. *Shakespeare.*

They that marry, as they that shall get no children; and they that marry not, as the *widowers*. *2 Esdr. xvi. 44.*

WIDOWHOOD. *n. f.* [from *widow*.] The state of a widow.

Cecropia, having in her *widowhood* taken this young Arctia into her charge, had taught her to think that there is no wisdom but in including both heaven and earth in one's self. *Sidney.*

Ne ween my right with strength adown to tread, Through weakness of my *widowhood* or woe, For truth is strong. *Fairy Queen.*

She employed her last *widowhood* to works no less bountiful than charitable. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*

It is of greater merit wholly to abstain from things desirable, than after fruition to be content to leave them; as they who magnify single life prefer virginity much before *widowhood*. *Wotton.*